

HONORING THE LIFE OF MARINE
LANCE CORPORAL DUSTIN R.
FITZGERALD

HON. JOHN A. BOEHNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2005

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life and legacy of Marine Lance Corporal Dustin R. Fitzgerald. As our country honors our military personnel, both past and present, this Memorial Day, I want to take this opportunity to remember those who have sacrificed their lives for our freedom and security.

Lance Corporal Fitzgerald leaves behind a legacy of compassion and leadership. His family and friends remember him as a mentor who was truly inspirational in helping the people he loved reach their full potential. They remember his pride in being a Marine, his willingness to go beyond the call of duty to assist the members of unit, and his joy and laughter.

Lance Corporal Fitzgerald had aspirations to be a lawyer, and his interest and enthusiasm are a source of inspiration to the lives he touched. Based on his reputation for being hard-working and committed to fulfilling his responsibilities, I have no doubt he would have been an effective lawyer.

Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I pay my last respects to a young man who was so full of life; to a young man who had a full and bright future ahead of him. I pray Lance Corporal Fitzgerald's family and friends find peace in their hearts, knowing his country is grateful and humbled by his sacrifice. I thank our brave men and women in uniform for continuing with our mission in Iraq, which is the ultimate tribute to our fallen soldiers, marines, sailors, and airmen.

Dustin, to you I offer my sincere gratitude and my solemn commitment to continue to support your friends, the members of your unit, and the men and women in Iraq who are continuing without you. Thank you for seeing a vision greater than yourself and for the strength of your commitment to our country. God bless you.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF CHIEF
JOSEPH MARVIN OF THE WOOD-
STOCK, ILLINOIS POLICE DE-
PARTMENT

HON. MELISSA L. BEAN

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2005

Ms. BEAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Chief Joseph Marvin and his twenty-seven years of service to the Woodstock Police Department in Woodstock, Illinois.

Mr. Speaker, Chief Marvin has been intricately involved in community building programs for over two decades. He has served as the Coordinator of Community Services and Chairman of the Crime Prevention Committee in Woodstock. These programs and his involvement in them have improved the lives for generations of Woodstock residents.

Serving his community as a police officer gave him the awesome responsibility to be a first responder, community leader and a role

model for his family, friends and neighbors. I know that in his retirement he will continue to have a lasting impact and positive influence on the City of Woodstock. I would like to thank him for his service to and presence in the community and wish him the best of luck in his much-deserved retirement.

Also, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the contributions of all police officers like Chief Martin who selflessly work for the good and of their communities, giving of themselves so that we may all enjoy the peace and safety they provide.

HONORING THE ALTO LADY
JACKETS

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2005

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to honor the Alto Lady Jackets track team who won the Texas 2A High School Track Championship on May 14, 2005. For the third time in three years, the Lady Jackets went down to Austin and returned home with the State Championship trophy.

I would like to recognize teammates Tiffany Hart, Angelitha Dickerson, Monique Hackney, Tashekia Mitchell, Kindal Baugh, Taneshia Pope, Tiffany Griffin, Margo Kahla, and Coaches Mildred Brown and Shaniqua Redd. The outstanding team performance of the Alto Lady Jackets was highlighted by gold medals in the 800 and 16,000-meter relays and a silver medal in the 400-meter relay. Additionally Monique Hackney took gold in the long jump, setting a new class 2A record in the process.

As the congressional representative of the families, coaches, and supporters of the Alto Lady Jackets, it is my pleasure to recognize their tremendous victory and outstanding season. This is an accomplishment that these young women will remember for the rest of their lives.

HONORING THE CANTON ROTARY
CLUB

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2005

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to commemorate two significant anniversaries of Rotary International. On February 23, 2005, Rotary International celebrated its 100th anniversary. From its humble roots in Chicago, Illinois, Rotary International has grown into a worldwide organization of business and professional leaders whose mission is to provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations, and help build goodwill and peace in the world. Since 1943, Rotary International has distributed more than \$1.1 billion to combat Polio, promote cultural exchanges, and encourage community service.

I also want to provide special recognition to an important member of this outstanding organization, the Rotary Club of Canton, Texas, for their twelve years of service to Van Zandt County. Throughout its twelve year history, the

Canton Rotary Club has achieved great successes in carrying out the mission of Rotary International.

In past years, the Canton Rotary Club has raised money to provide scholarships to local students and sponsored programs to improve area literacy. In addition, the Canton Rotary Club has been active in Rotary International's Polio Plus program.

Through these actions, the Rotary Club of Canton, Texas, has exemplified the values of service and charity that lie at the heart of American society. As the congressional representative of the members of this outstanding organization, it is my distinct pleasure to be able to honor them today on the floor of the United States House of Representatives.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZA-
TION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 25, 2005

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1815) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2006 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 2006, and for other purposes:

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Taylor Motion to Re-commit today on the issue of providing full TRICARE to all members of the Guard and Reserve and their families. I am most outraged by the fact that there will be no consideration of the Taylor amendment on TRICARE for reservists as well as the Salazar amendment on ending the Military Families Tax and the Marshall amendment on ending the Disabled Veterans Tax. These amendments are three key provisions in the GI Bill of Rights for the 21st Century, which House Democrats unveiled in March. It seems blatant, that the Rules Committee would not allow the full body to consider these vital amendments which could have greatly strengthened this Defense Authorization.

My colleague Mr. TAYLOR's amendment would have provided full TRICARE to all members of the Guard and Reserve and their families. Currently, the Guard and Reserve are covered by TRICARE only when they are mobilized for active duty. Under the Taylor amendment, all members of the Guard and Reserve could buy into TRICARE for an affordable monthly premium. The Taylor amendment was in fact adopted by the Armed Services Committee by a vote of 32 to 30. However, after the mark-up, Chairman HUNTER stripped the amendment from the bill based on a violation of the Budget Act, instead of allowing Representative TAYLOR to make a slight modification to his amendment which would have addressed the violation. It is the slightly modified version that Representative TAYLOR had sought the Rules Committee to make in order and which the Rules Committee has egregiously rejected for consideration. It is a travesty indeed because this amendment could have done so much good for so many Guardsmen and Reservists.

The simple fact is that more than 433,000 of our National Guard and Reserves have been

called up over the past two and one-half years. Reserve Components make up almost 50 percent of our forces in Iraq. It is time that we as a body recognize their service to our nation by providing TRICARE for Reserve Component personnel on a permanent basis. It is disgraceful that this Congress will not demonstrate the level of commitment for its citizen-soldiers that they so richly deserve.

I know how TRICARE is insufficient for our men and women fighting abroad, I've talked to many of them in my district and it's sad that we can't provide them with the support they need when they are the ones making the ultimate sacrifice. The cuts to TRICARE over the years are despicable and soon we will have almost nothing to offer our men and women fighting abroad in the area of domestic care. Among those in Houston who have been brave enough to serve is Texas State Representative Rick Noriega who is with the Texas Army National Guard. He has served as state representative for District 145 for 6 years and when he was called to duty in Afghanistan he went to serve his nation, truly an inspiration to many. However, he left behind a wife and two children, who were proud, but unfortunately they were left with insufficient coverage by TRICARE. His family has suffered harsh treatment because they demanded more from TRICARE and weren't receiving it. Their story is not uncommon throughout the nation. Many doctors won't accept TRICARE because it is inadequate. The sad fact is that 20 percent of all Reservists do not have health insurance, and 40 percent of Reservists aged 19 to 35 lack health coverage according to a 2003 report by the General Accounting Office. According to the latest Defense Department data, 18 percent of activated Reservists have no medical coverage. These facts are deplorable, I pray for families like State Representative Noriega's and others who don't have access to sufficient care. How can we say that we are proud of our men and women fighting abroad when we can't even care for them and their families when they return to this nation of ours?

I can only hope in the future that such significant legislation as this will involve the debate and full consideration of all necessary and relevant amendments. The men and women of our Armed Forces and indeed the American people as a whole deserve as much. Again, I rise in full support of the Taylor Motion to Recommit and consider this truly vital amendment on TRICARE.

HONORING THE TEN TOWNS GREAT SWAMP WATERSHED MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2005

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Ten Towns Great Swamp Watershed Management Committee of Morris County, New Jersey, a vibrant organization I am proud to represent! On June 15, 2005 the Trustees and Friends of the Committee are celebrating its Tenth Anniversary.

The Great Swamp Watershed is a 55 square mile region in Morris and Somerset Counties and includes portions of

Bernardsville Borough, Bernards Township, Chatham Township, Township of Harding, Long Hill Township, Borough of Madison, Mendham Borough, Mendham Township, the Town of Morristown, and Morris Township.

The Ten Towns Great Swamp Watershed Management Committee was formed in 1995 through an Inter-municipal Cooperative Agreement among the ten municipalities that have lands within the Great Swamp Watershed. Developed under the auspices of the Morris County leadership group, Morris 2000 (now Morris Tomorrow), the Ten Towns Committee was formed for the specific purpose of developing and implementing a watershed management plan for the watershed in the Upper Passaic River basin of northern New Jersey.

Since its formation, the Ten Towns Committee has developed a full range of programs to protect water quality and water resources in the Great Swamp, including: a water quality monitoring program, development of environmental ordinances, and construction of "Best Management Practices" improvements to correct existing non-point source pollution conditions.

The Ten Towns Committee has been recognized as a model in the state of New Jersey and has received awards for its work from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.

It has also been my pleasure on several occasions to assist the Association with Federal support which enhances their critical work that both protects this remarkable national asset, the Great Swamp, and protects, for future generations, precious water supplies.

Mr. Speaker, I urge you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the members of the Ten Towns Great Swamp Watershed Management Committee on the celebration of the Committee's ten years serving the Great Swamp Watershed area. Special praise is due to their dedicated staff and active volunteers who work tirelessly to protect and enhance the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge and Wilderness Area.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ARMY SERGEANT CHARLES J. WEBB

HON. JOHN A. BOEHNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2005

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life and legacy of Army Sergeant Charles J. Webb. As our country honors our military personnel, both past and present, this Memorial Day, I want to take this opportunity to remember those who have sacrificed their lives for our freedom and security.

Sergeant Webb leaves behind the most important legacy any man can leave: a strong and healthy family who knows he loved them with all his heart. His love and commitment to his wife Stephanie is the best testament to his character and to his heart.

Sergeant Webb had aspirations to be a high school History Teacher. He is remembered as a loyal and committed soldier, and I have no doubt he would have extended his sense of duty and commitment to the teaching profession and would have been an effective and motivating teacher.

Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I pay my last respects to a young man who was so full of life; to a young man who had a full and bright future ahead of him. I pray Army Sergeant Webb's family and friends find peace in their hearts, knowing his country is grateful and humbled by his sacrifice. I thank our brave men and women in uniform for continuing with our mission in Iraq, which is the ultimate tribute to our fallen soldiers, marines, sailors, and airmen.

Charles, to you I offer my sincere gratitude and my solemn commitment to continue to support your friends, the members of your unit, and the men and women in Iraq who are continuing without you. Thank you for seeing a vision greater than yourself and for the strength of your commitment to our country. God bless you.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2005

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, because of family illness I missed the following votes: On May 19, 2005 on rollcall vote #190, On Ordering the Previous Question; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2361) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes; I would have voted "nay."

On May 19, 2005 on rollcall vote #191, On Agreeing to the Amendment to H.R. 2361; the Hefley of Colorado Amendment; I would have voted "nay."

On May 19, 2005 on rollcall vote #193, On Agreeing to the Amendment to H.R. 2361; the Terry of Nebraska Amendment; I would have voted "nay."

On May 19, 2005 on rollcall vote #194, On Agreeing to the Amendment to H.R. 2361; the Obey of Wisconsin Amendment No. 2; I would have voted "yea."

On May 19, 2005 on rollcall vote #195, On Agreeing to the Amendment to H.R. 2361; the Beauprez of Colorado Amendment; I would have voted "nay."

On May 19, 2005 on rollcall vote #196, On Agreeing to the Amendment to H.R. 2361; the Rahall of West Virginia Amendment; I would have voted "yea."

On May 19, 2005 on rollcall vote #197, On Agreeing to the Amendment to H.R. 2361; the Hefley of Colorado Amendment; I would have voted "nay."

On May 19, 2005 on rollcall vote #198, On Motion to Recommit with Instructions; for H.R. 2361 Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2006; I would have voted "yea."

On May 19, 2005 on rollcall vote #199, On Passage; for H.R. 2361 Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2006; I would have voted "yea."